

Appl. No. 09/686,284
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Sub E1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device having a bonus scheme comprising:

- a plurality of selections;
- a plurality of credit symbols associated with a first plurality of said selections;
- a plurality of award symbols associated with a second plurality of said selections;
- a winning combination of at least two award symbols and a jackpot award associated with said winning combination of award symbols;

- a display device adapted to display the selections, credit symbols and award symbols to a player; and

01 a processor which communicates with the display device, provides a number of credits to the player when the player chooses the first selections, accumulates the award symbols when the player chooses the second selections, and provides the player the jackpot award when the accumulated award symbols reach said winning combination, wherein ~~all or~~ all but one of a provided number of player picks of the selections must result in award symbols to achieve the winning combination, and wherein the number of picks is at least two.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the processor provides the player at least one credit associated with each selection having an associated award symbol.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes means for determining a number of selections the player may select based on the player's wager in a primary game of the gaming device.

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Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 3, wherein the number of selections is sufficient to provide the player an opportunity to select the awards symbols necessary for obtaining the winning combination.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one functional symbol associated with one of the selections.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein the functional symbol changes the total number of selections.

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Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein the functional symbol is a modifier symbol.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the winning combination includes a plurality of related award symbols.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the number of credits provided to the player increases with each subsequent chosen selection having an associated award symbol.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of operating a bonus round of a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) triggering said bonus round;
- (b) displaying a plurality of selections to a player;
- (c) picking one of the selections;
- (d) displaying a symbol associated with the picked selection;
- (e) accumulating the symbol if the symbol associated with the picked selection is an award symbol;
- (f) providing the player an award if the symbol associated with the picked selection is a credit symbol;
- (g) repeating steps (c) through (f) until at least two selections are picked; and
- (h) providing the player a jackpot award if the accumulated award symbols reach a predetermined number of at least two award symbols, wherein all or all but one of the number of picked selections must result in award symbols to achieve the jackpot award.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 10, which includes enabling the player to pick the selections.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, which includes determining the number of picks of selections based on the player's bet in a primary game which triggers the bonus round.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, wherein the number of picks of the selections is equal to or greater than the predetermined number of award symbols if the player makes a minimum wager in a primary game which triggers the bonus round.

Claim 14 (canceled)

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Claim 15 (original): The method of Claim 10, which includes providing at least one functional symbol associated with one selection and performing a function if said selection is selected.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a selection confirmation indicator connected to the processor which enables the player to confirm the player's selections after the player selects all of the player's selections.

01 Claim 17 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a selection confirmation indicator connected to the processor which enables the player to confirm at least one selection picked by the player.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, which includes enabling the player to confirm the player's picked selections after the player picks all of the player's selections.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 12, which includes enabling the player to confirm at least one selection picked by the player.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): A gaming device having a game comprising:
a plurality of selections;
a plurality of credit symbols associated with a first plurality of said selections;
a plurality of award symbols associated with a second plurality of said selections;
a display device adapted to display the selections, credit symbols and award symbols to a player; and

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a processor in communication with the display device, said processor providing the player with a number of picks of the selections, providing the player with an amount of credits for each pick of one of the first selections and providing the player a jackpot award if the player selects a predetermined number of the second selections with the player's number of picks of the selections, the predetermined number of the second selections being at least two and ~~the same or one less than~~ the number of picks.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 20, wherein the number of the player's picks of selection is based on the player's wager in a primary game of the gaming device.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 20, wherein the number of picks is equal to or greater than the number of selections having associated award symbols.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 20, which includes at least one functional symbol associated with one of the selections.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 23, wherein the functional symbol changes the number of the player's picks of the selections.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 23, wherein the functional symbol modifies the number of credits provided to the player.

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Claim 26 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 20, which includes a selection confirmation indicator connected to the processor which enables the player to confirm the player's picked selections after the player picks the number of selections.

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Claim 27 (currently amended): A gaming device having a game comprising:
a plurality of selections;
a plurality of credit symbols associated with a first plurality of said selections;
a plurality of award symbols associated with a second plurality of said selections;
a display device adapted to display the selections, credit symbols and award symbols to a player; and

a processor in communication with the display device, said processor providing the player with at least two picks of the selections, providing the player with an amount of credits for each pick of one of the first selections, accumulating the award symbols for each pick of one of the second selections, and providing the player an award based on the number of accumulated award symbols associated with the second selections picked by the player, the number of accumulated award symbols required for the award being at least two and the predetermined number of picks being not more than one plus the number of award symbols.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 27, wherein credits are associated with the award symbols and the processor provides the player the credits associated with the award symbols for each pick of one of the selections having an associated award symbol.

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Claim 29 (currently amended): A method of operating a game of a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying a plurality of selections to a player;
- (b) enabling the player to make a predetermined number of at least two picks of said selections;
- (c) displaying a symbol associated with each picked selection;
- (d) accumulating the symbol if said symbol is an award symbol, wherein a number of possible selectable award symbols is one less ~~or equal to~~ than the predetermined number of picks;
- (e) providing the player at least one credit if the symbol is a credit symbol; and
- (f) providing the player an additional award based on an accumulated number of award symbols.

D1 Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of Claim 29, wherein the additional award includes a jackpot.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of Claim 29, wherein the number of picks of the selections is based on the player's wager in a primary game of the gaming device which triggers said game.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of Claim 29, wherein the number of picks includes at least an amount equal to or greater than a total number of award symbols associated with the selections.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of Claim 29, which is operated through a data network.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the data network is an internet.

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Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a plurality of selections;
a plurality of credit symbols associated with a first plurality of said selections;
a plurality of award symbols associated with a second plurality of said selections;
a winning combination of award symbols;
a processor providing at least two picks of the selections;
at least one credit provided to a player for each picked first selection; and
a jackpot award provided to the player only if, for each but one of the provided number of picks, the player picks second selections which form the winning combination of award symbols.

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Claim 37 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, which includes a plurality of winning combinations of award symbols that can be selected within the number of picks.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method of operating a bonus game of a gaming device, said method comprising the steps of:
enabling a player to pick a number of selections in the bonus game from a plurality of selections;
providing credits to the player in response to a plurality of said picked selections;
accumulating jackpot award symbols associated with the picked selections; and
providing a jackpot award to the player if the player accumulates pre-determined award symbols, wherein the bonus game is arranged such that odds of obtaining said pre-determined award symbols is low enough such that the jackpot award can be at least approximately \$1,000,000.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of Claim 38, which is operated through a data network.

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Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of Claim 39, wherein the data
b1 network is an internet.
